



# Family Preservation Services, Costs and Outcomes in Los Angeles: First Findings

**Presentation for the Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families  
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# Outline

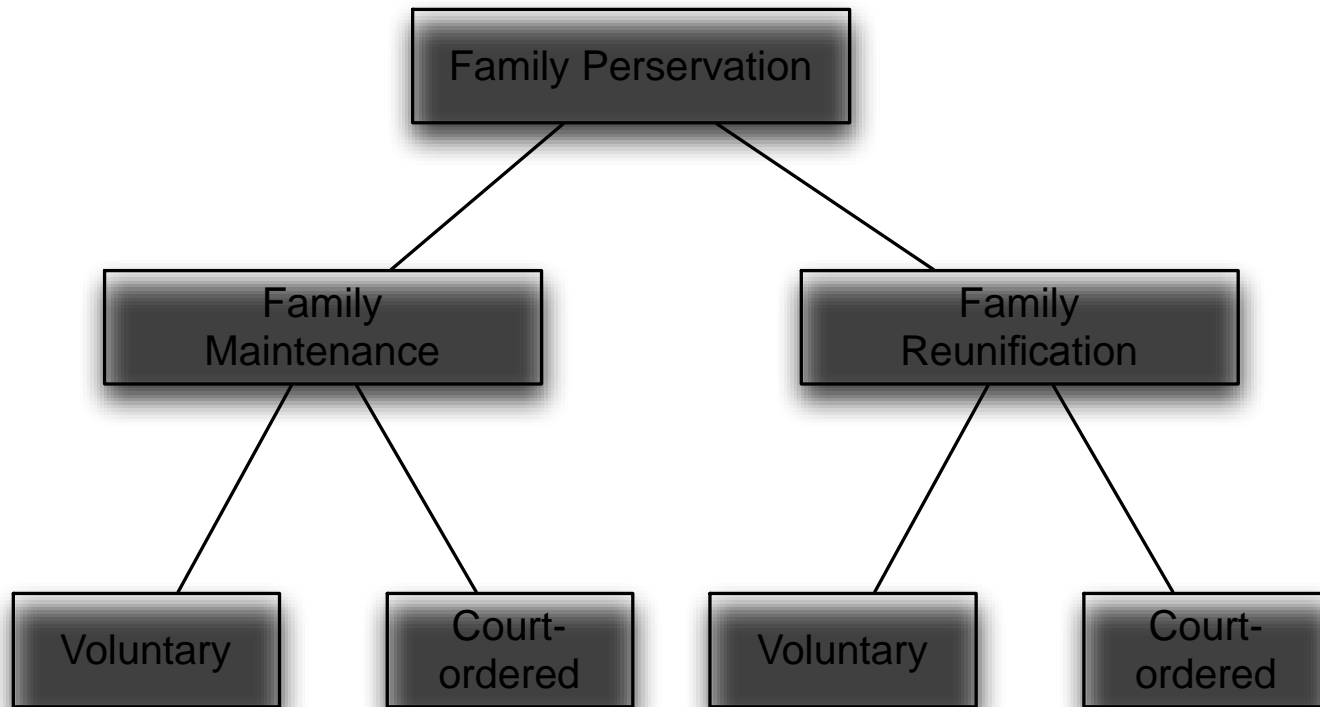
- I. FPS Evaluation Purpose and Programs Examined
- II. Research Questions
- III. Persons Served by FPS
- IV. Findings: FPS Outcomes
- V. What Predicts FPS Success?
- VI. Recommendations

## Purpose of the FPS Evaluation Study

Examines FPS data for the time period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2010:

- Characteristics of the families served
- Agencies
- Services
- Costs
- Outcomes (including how FPS agencies are meeting the performance benchmarks set in their contracts)
- DCFS worker and Regional Office Administrator satisfaction with the contracted FPS

## Four Key FPS Programs Were Examined



## Research Questions

1. Who is being served by different kinds of DCFS Family Preservation Services?
2. What does it cost to provide these services?
3. What kinds of family outcomes are being achieved, across LA and by individual FPS provider agencies?
4. What do DCFS workers feel are the strengths, limitations and strategies for refinement for each of the current FPS contractors?
5. What refinements need to be made in Family Preservation Services and performance measurement?

## Data Collection Methods

1. Child Welfare Services/Child Management System (CWS/CMS) data,
2. SDM risk and safety data,
3. Family Preservation services and cost data from the billing data base,
4. Special survey of DCFS staff (CSW's and SCSW's) about the contracted FPS that was made possible by the research team in the DCFS Bureau of Information Statistics.

## Who Was Served?

	Family-Level (One Focus Child)	Child-Level (All Children)
<b>Family Maintenance:</b>	<b>12,428</b>	<b>29,668</b>
Voluntary (VFM)	6,563	15,628
Court-ordered (FM)	5,865	14,040
<b>Family Reunification:</b>	<b>2,158</b>	<b>4,972</b>
Voluntary (VFR)	245	537
Court-ordered (FR)	1,913	4435
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,586</b>	<b>34,640</b>

## Who Was Served in Terms of Risk of Child Maltreatment as Measured by the Structured Decision-Making Measure (SDM)?

Risk Level	Vol. Family Maintenance	Court-Ordered Family Maintenance	Vol. Family Reunification	Court-Ordered Family Reunification
<b>High/Very High SDM Risk</b>	77.8% (61.0% – 92.9%)	87.9% (74.5% – 100.0%)	90.2% (83.3% – 96.9%)	90.2% (58.3% – 100.0%)
<b>Very High SDM Risk</b>	15.4% (4.6% – 41.2%)	33.7% (22.1% – 50.0%)	21.7% (8.3% – 31.3%)	37.8% (8.3% – 68.0%)



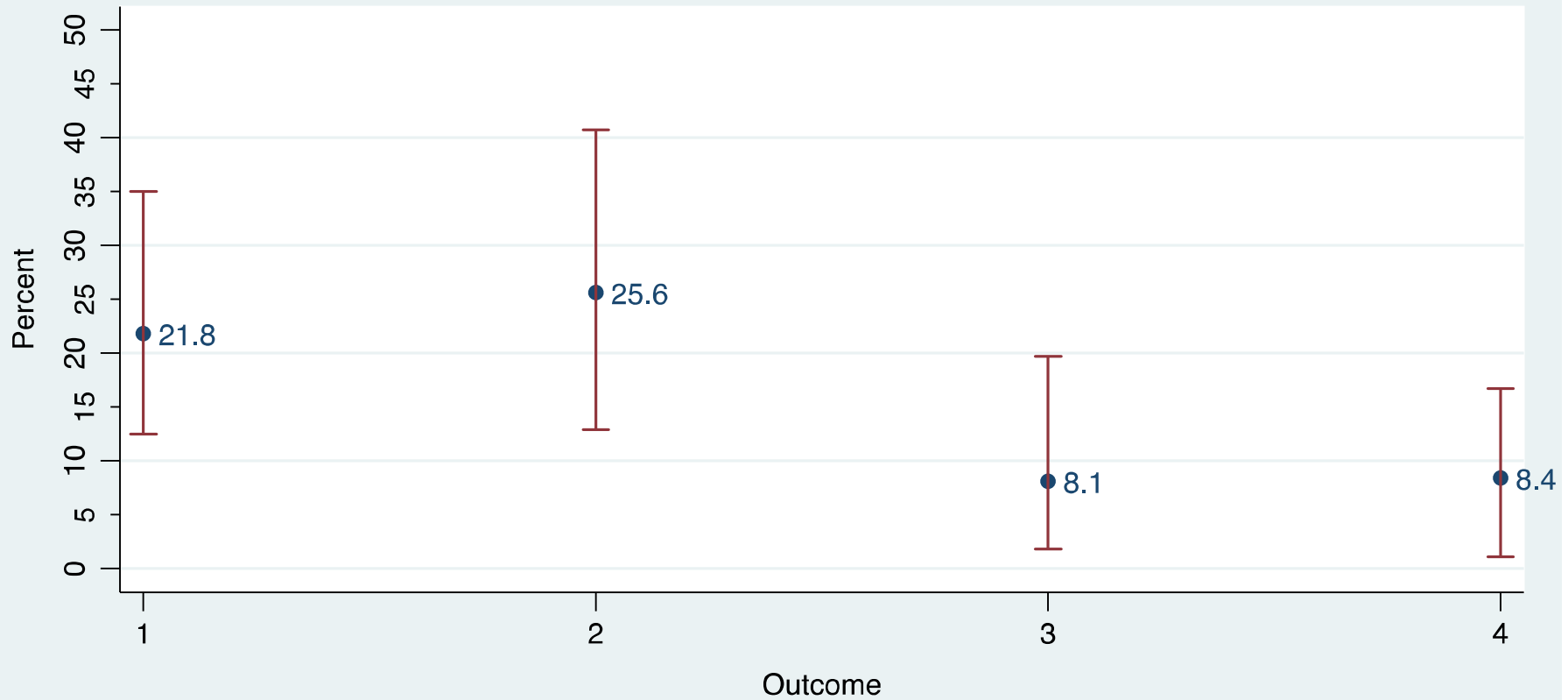
## Cost of FPS Services by Component

<b>FPS Program Component</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Percentage of Program Budget</b>
<b>DCFS FPS</b>	\$122,353,848	76.0%
<b>Alternative Response Services (ARS)</b>	\$19,254,960	12.0%
<b>Probation Family Preservation Services</b>	\$16,642,531	10.3%
<b>Up Front Assessment (UFA)</b>	\$2,663,041	1.7%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$160,914,381</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Outcomes: % of Cases with CPS Referrals

Outcome	Vol. Family Maintenance	Court-Ordered Family Maintenance	Vol. Family Reunification	Court-Ordered Family Reunification
Re-referrals during FPS	21.8% (12.5% – 35%)	18.8% (11.3% – 36.4%)	21.2% (0% – 23.1%)	19.7% (4.3% – 37.5%)
Substantiated re-referrals during FPS	8.0% (1.8% – 19.7%)	6.3% (1.6% – 15.9%)	7.3% (5.7% – 7.7%)	5.2% (1.6% – 20%)
Re-referrals within 12 months	25.6% (12.9% – 40.7%)	23.6% (8.6% – 32%)	27.3% (10% – 41.7%)	25.9% (12.9% – 50%)
Substantiated re-referrals within 12 months	8.5% (1.1% – 16.7%)	7.9% (2.5% – 15.7%)	7.3% (5.7% – 8.3%)	7.8% (2.0% – 25%)

# Voluntary Family Maintenance Across All 4 Outcomes

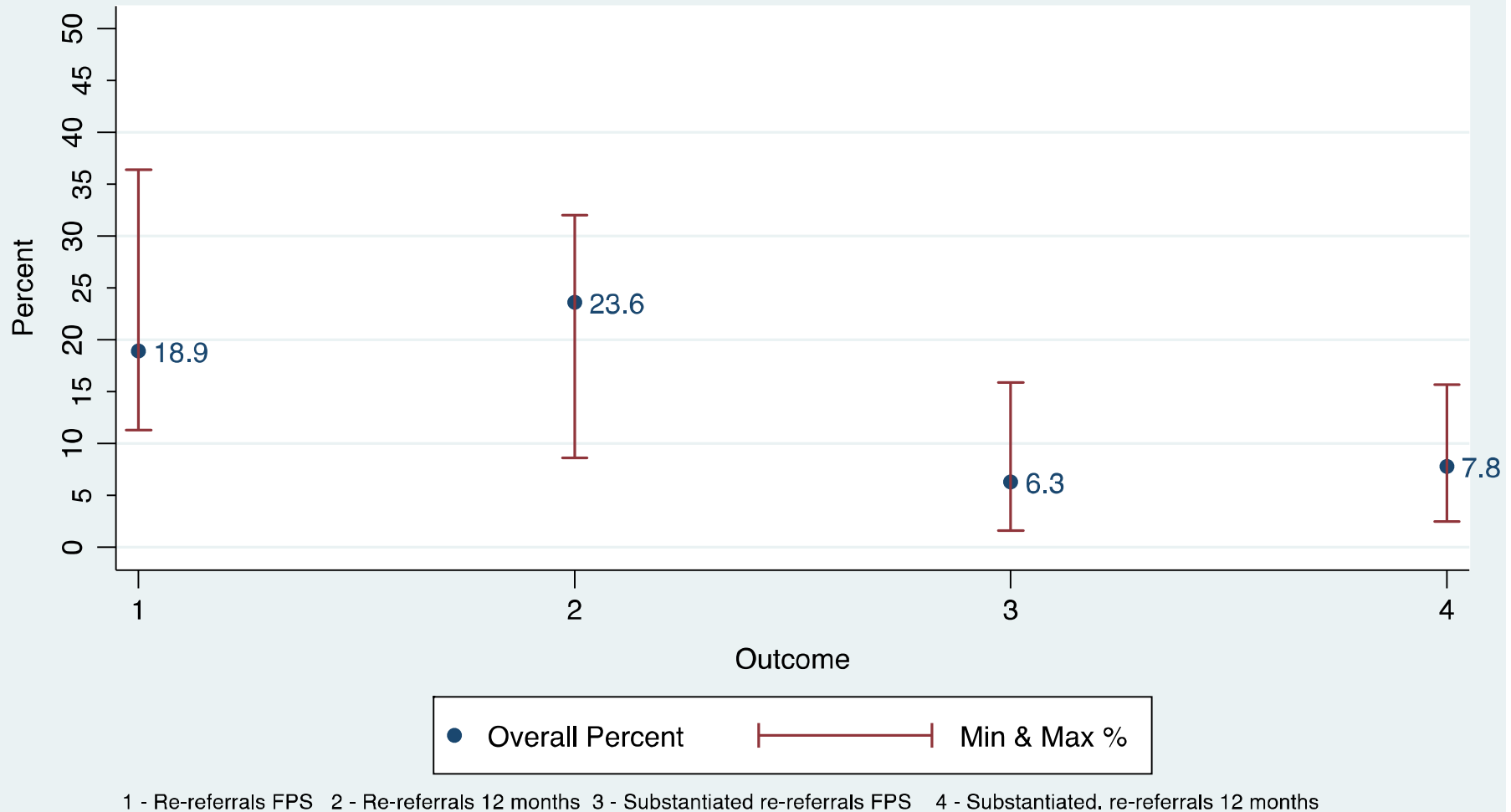


● Overall Percent

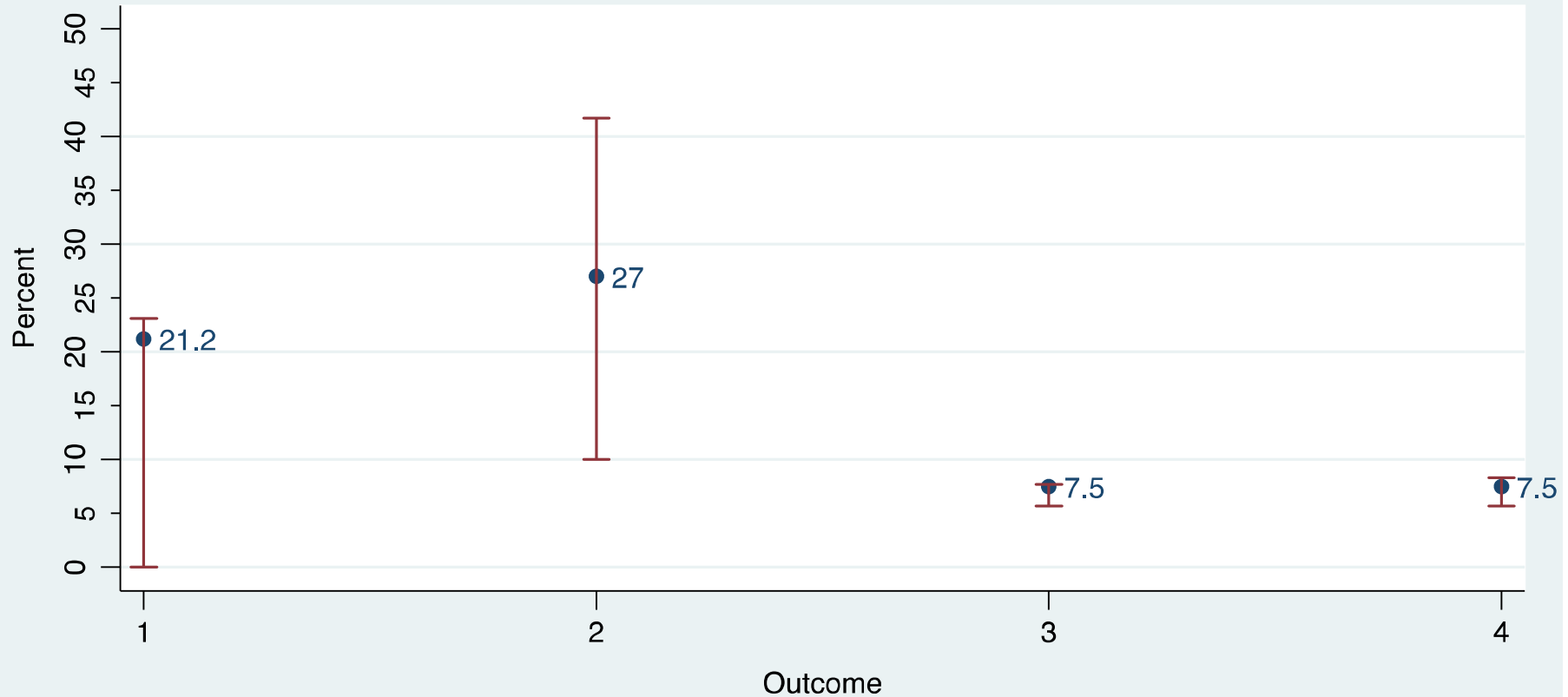
Min & Max %

1 - Re-referrals FPS   2 - Re-referrals 12 months   3 - Substantiated re-referrals FPS   4 - Substantiated, re-referrals 12 months

# Court-ordered Family Maintenance Across All 4 Outcomes



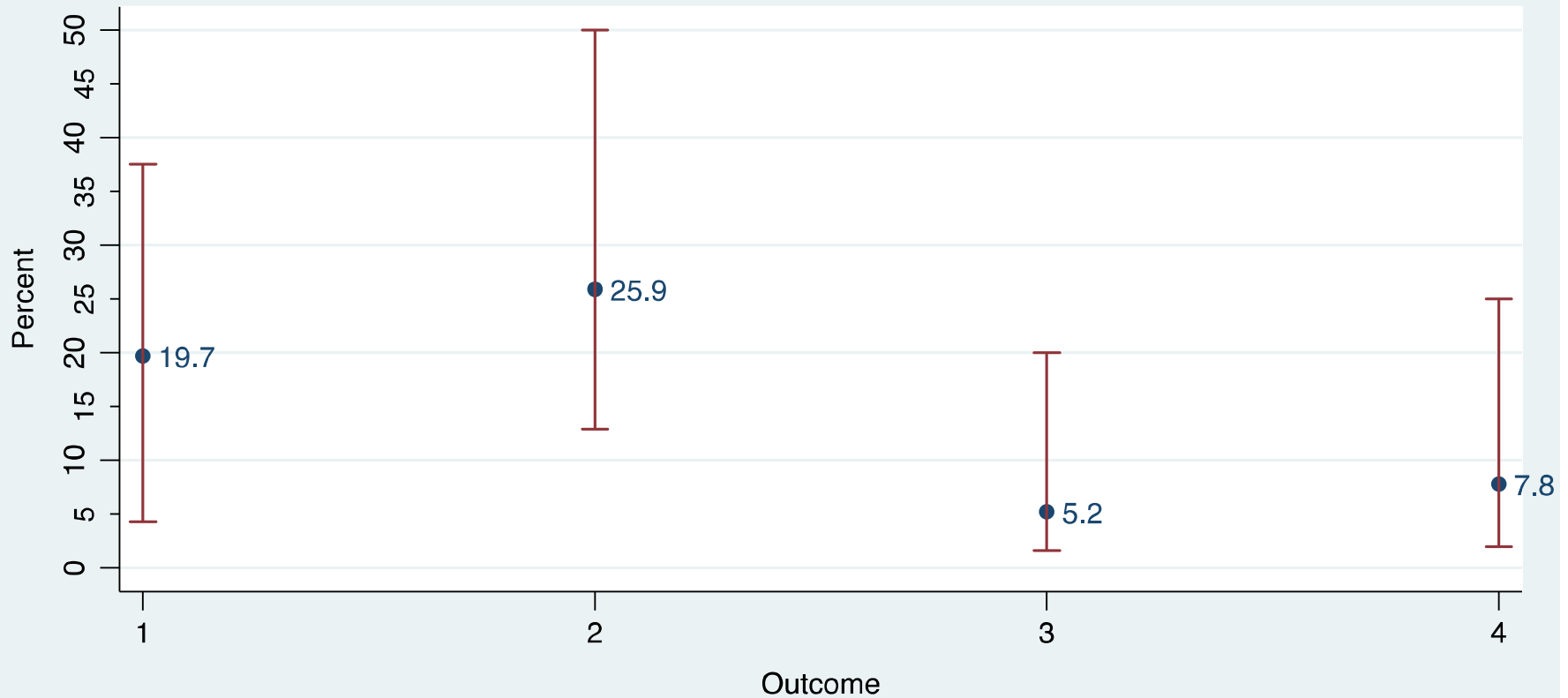
# Voluntary Family Reunification Across All 4 Outcomes



● Overall Percent      — Min & Max %

1 - Re-referrals FPS   2 - Re-referrals 12 months   3 - Substantiated re-referrals FPS   4 - Substantiated, re-referrals 12 months

# Court Ordered Family Reunification Across All 4 Outcomes



● Overall Percent

— Min & Max %

1 - Re-referrals FPS 2 - Re-referrals 12 months 3 - Substantiated re-referrals FPS 4 - Substantiated, re-referrals 12 months

## Outcomes: New Case Openings and Placements

Outcome	Vol. Family Maintenance	Court-Ordered Family Maintenance	Vol. Family Reunification	Court-Ordered Family Reunification
New case openings within 12 months	3.3% (1.0% – 13.7%)	2.8% (0.9% – 10%)	2.9% (no min or max)	1.6% (1% – 16.7%)
Removals during FPS	9.6% (2.4% – 17.7%)	8.7% (3.6% – 17.1%)		
Removals within 12 months	5.9% (1.2% – 13.0%)	6.8% (1.3% – 14.3%)		

## Outcomes: Family Reunification

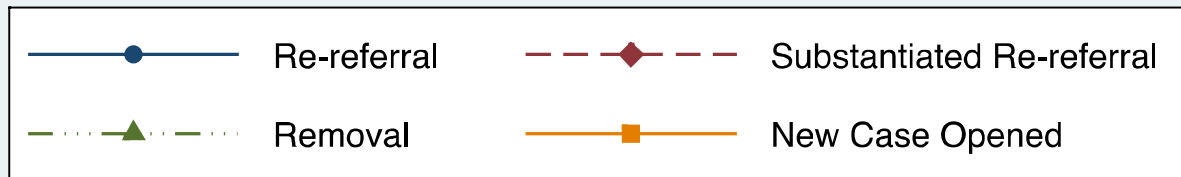
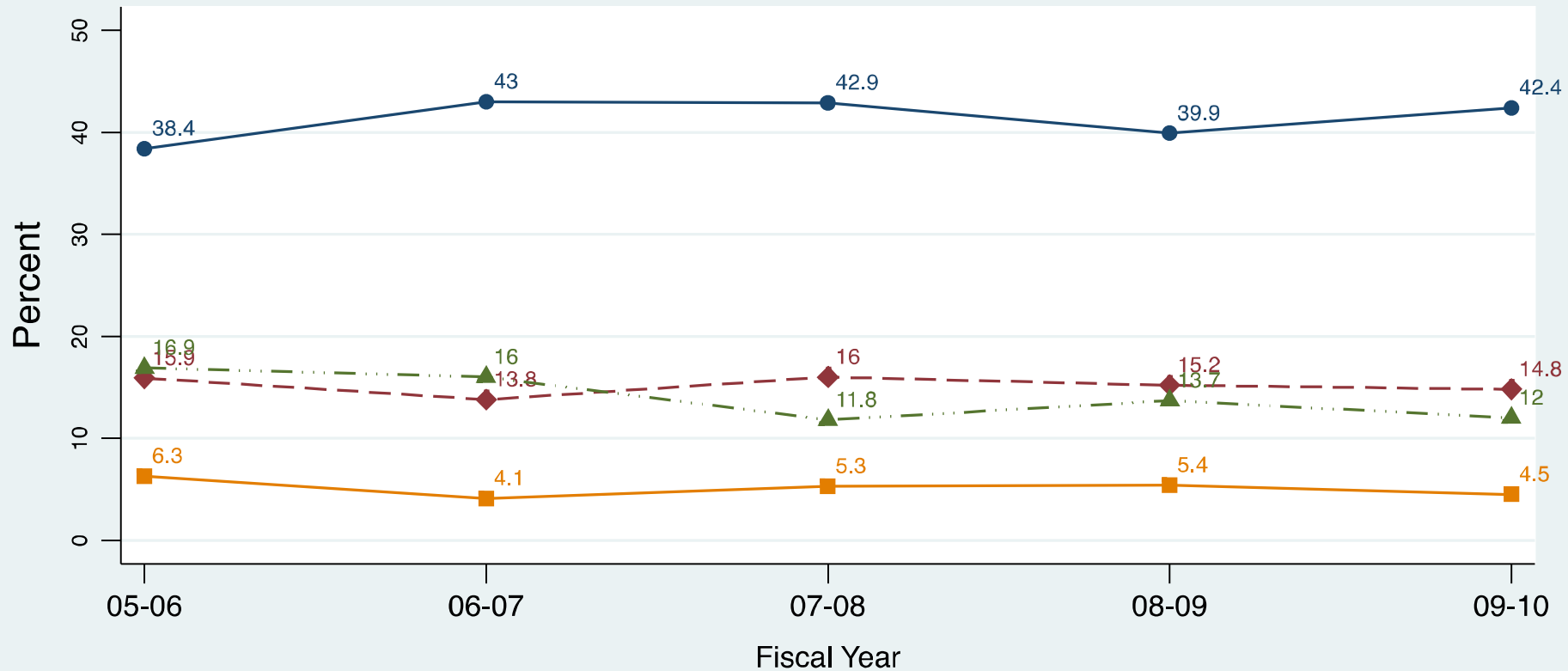
Reunifications	Vol. Family Reunification	Court-Ordered Family Reunification
Within 6 months after start of FPS	<b>29.4%</b> (8.3% – 46.2%)	<b>7.5%</b> (2.6%– 7.7%)
Within 12 months after start of FPS	<b>51.4%</b> (30% – 69.2%)	<b>23.5%</b> (7.7% – 58.3%)
Within 24 months after start of FPS	<b>64.5%</b>	<b>54.9%</b>
<b>TOTAL Reunifications</b>	<b>69.0%</b> (66.7% – 84.6%)	<b>64.8%</b> (40% – 88.5%)



2005/2006 – 2009/2010

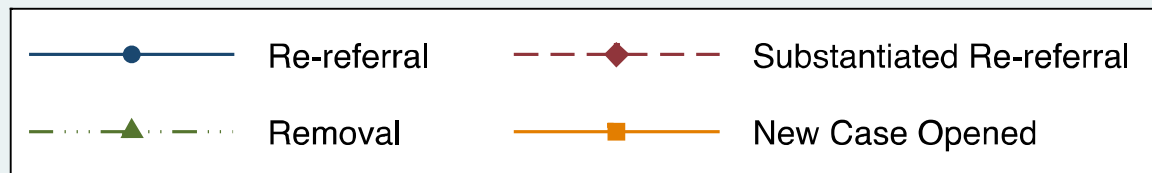
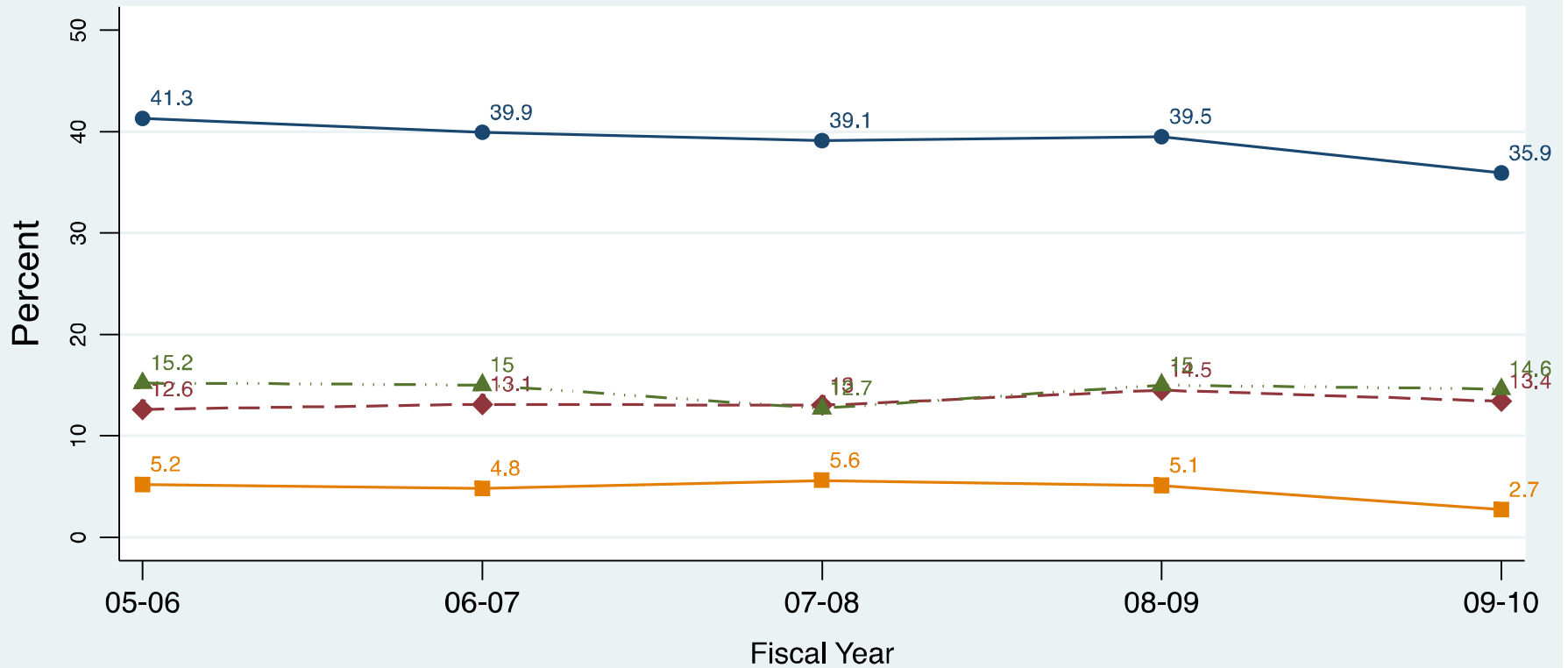
# **OUTCOMES ACROSS 5 FISCAL YEARS**

## Voluntary Family Maintenance 2006-2010



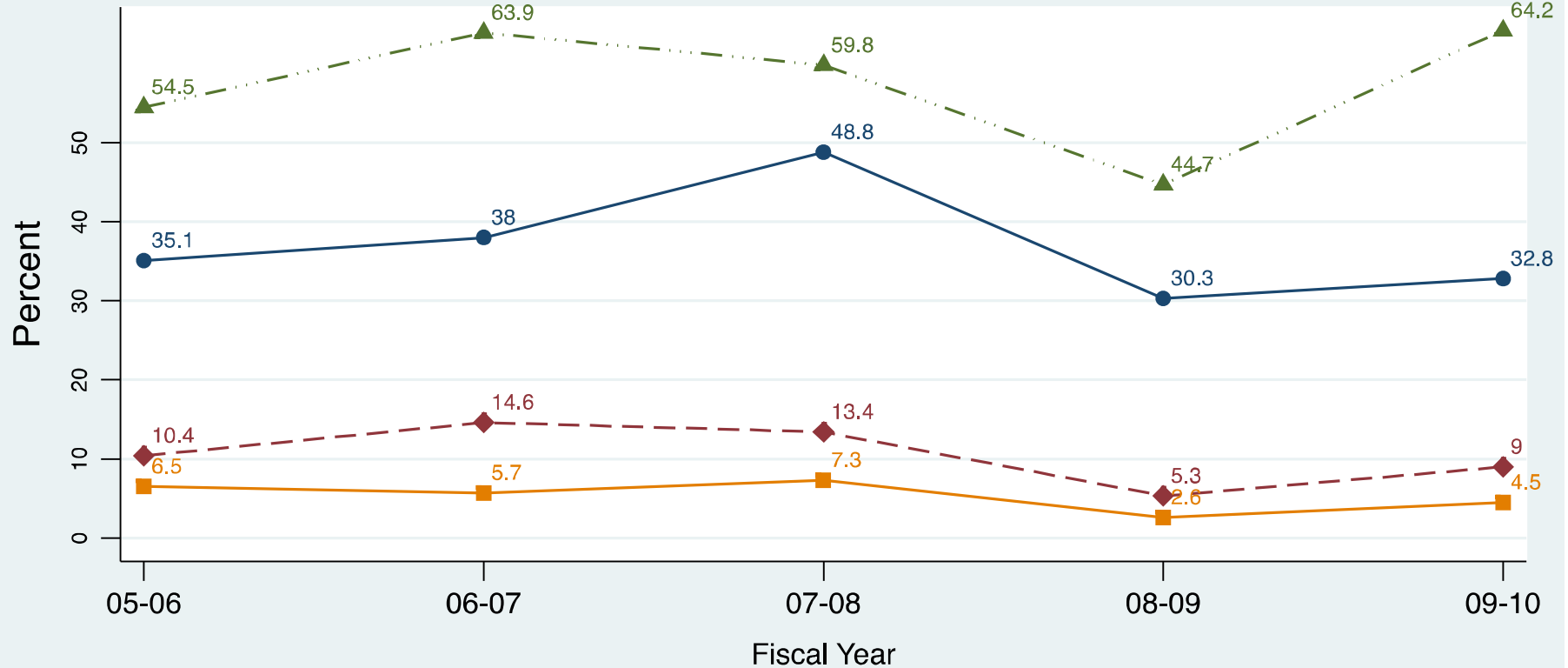
N Across 5 Fiscal Years - 15,628

## Court Ordered Family Maintenance 2006-2010



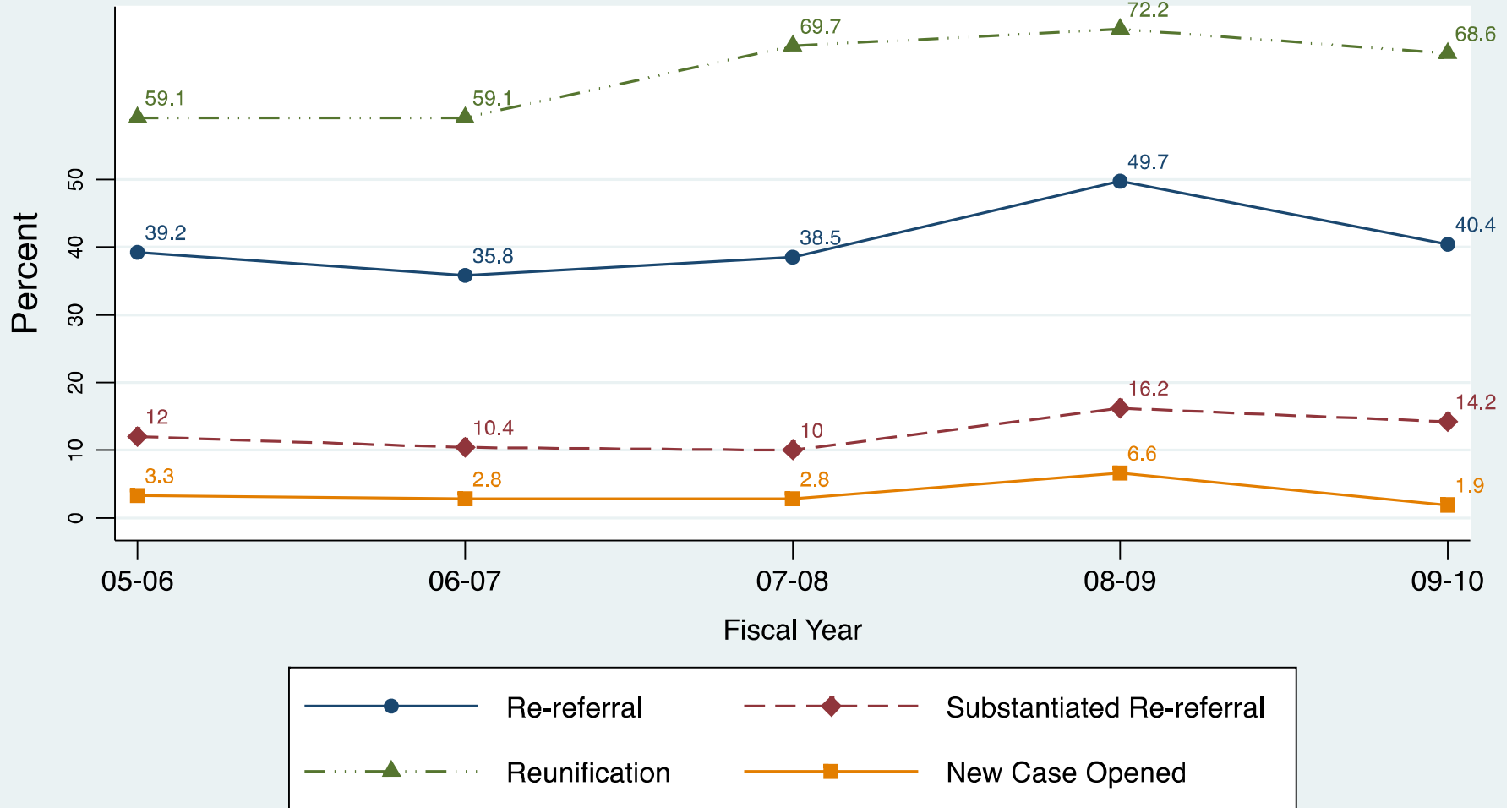
N Across 5 Fiscal Years - 14,040

## Voluntary Family Reunification 2006-2010



N Across 5 Fiscal Years - 537

## Court Ordered Family Reunification 2006-2010



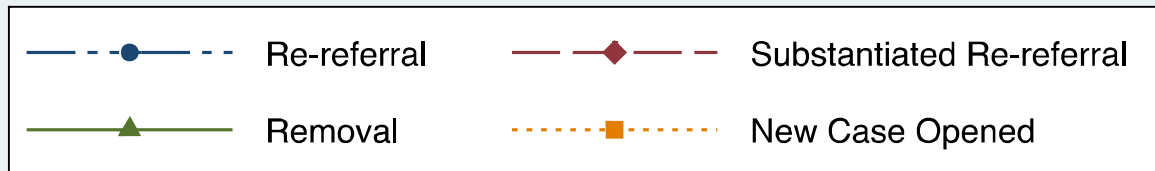
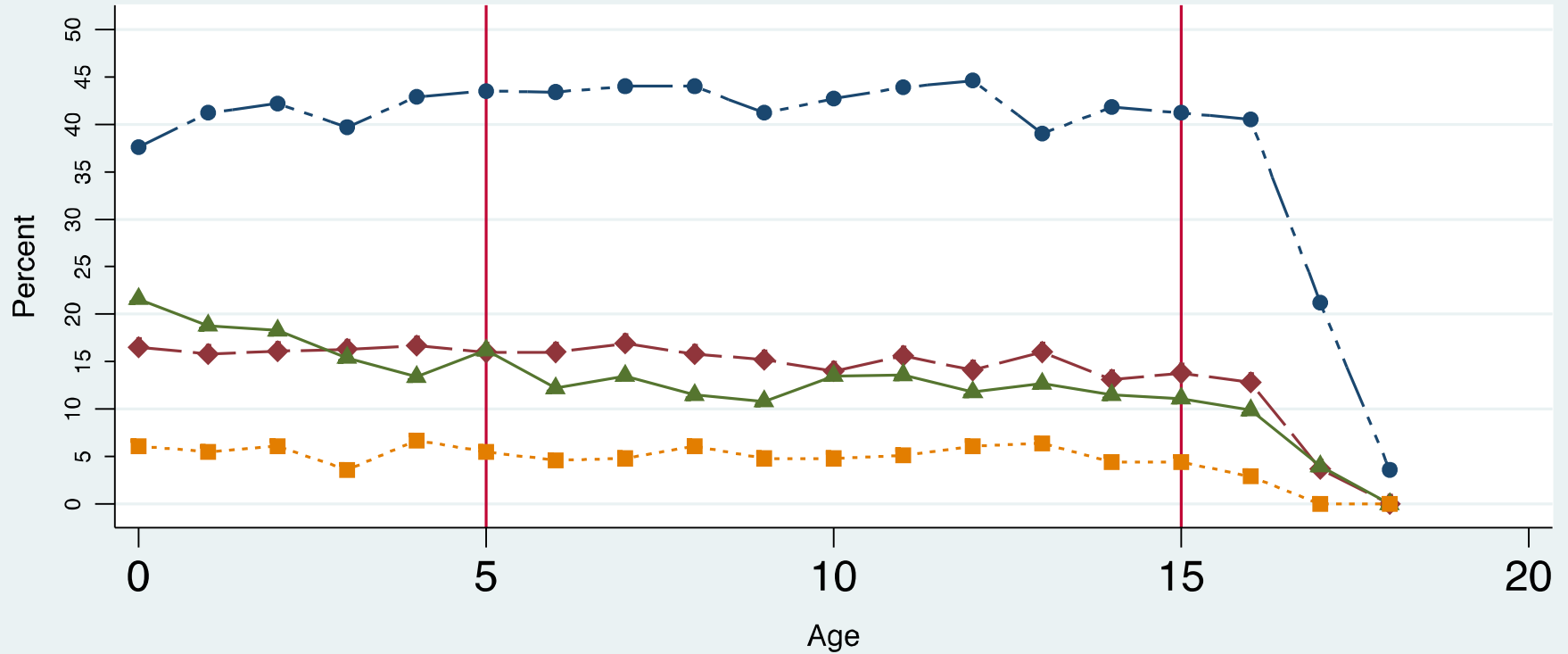
N Across 5 Fiscal Years - 4,435

Birth - 17

# **OUTCOMES BY AGE**

# Voluntary Family Maintenance

By Age

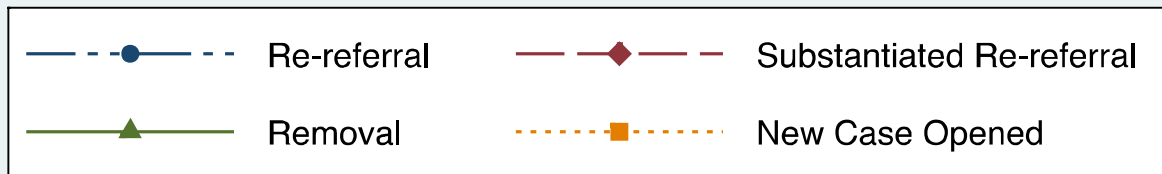
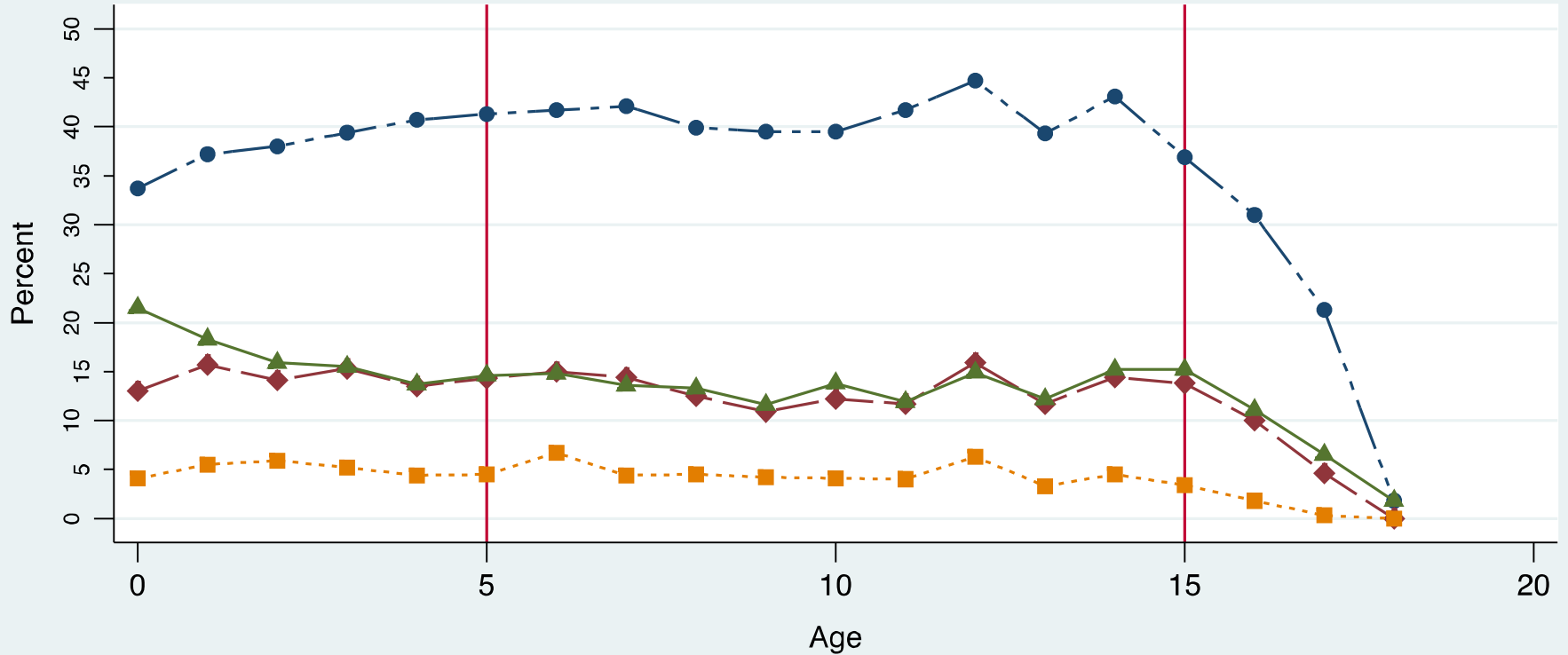


FY 2006-2010

N Across 5 Fiscal Years - 15,627

# Court Ordered Family Maintenance

By Age



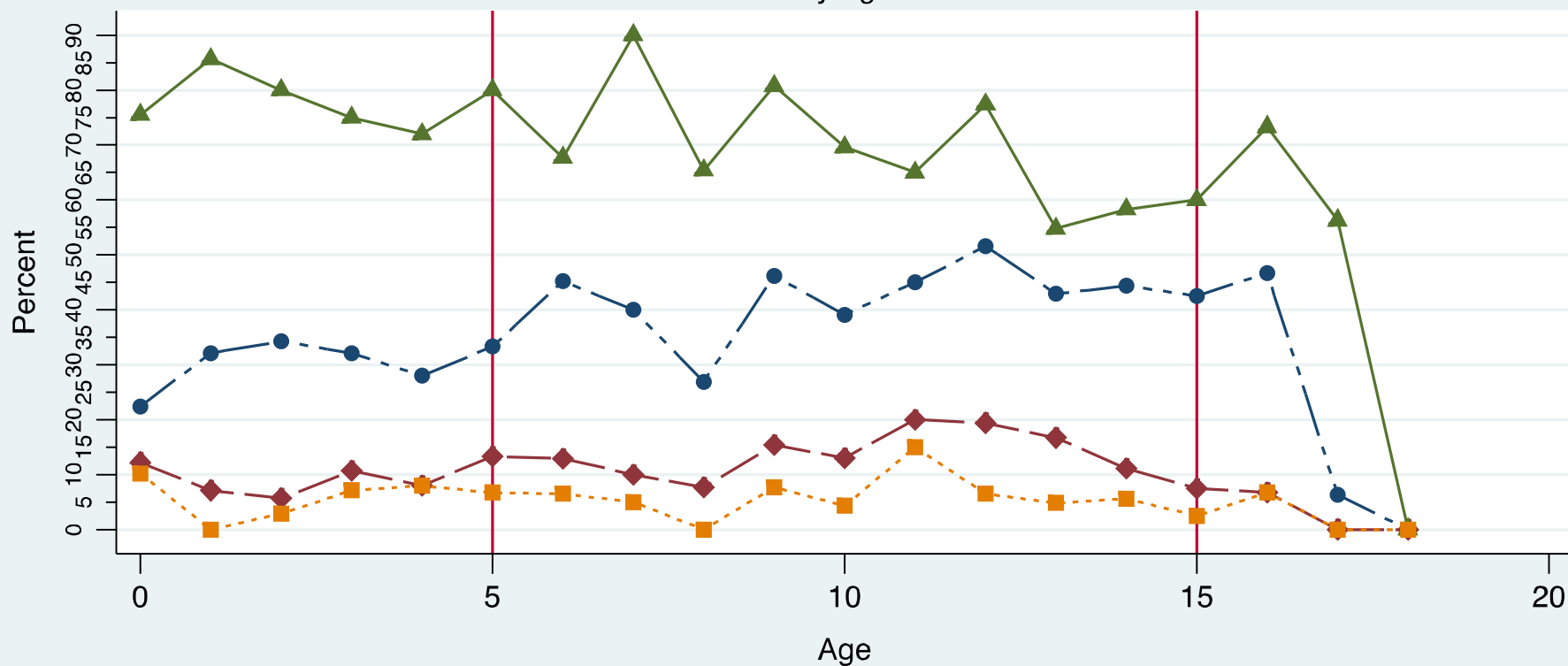
FY 2006-2010

N Across 5 Fiscal Years - 14,034



# Voluntary Family Reunification

By Age

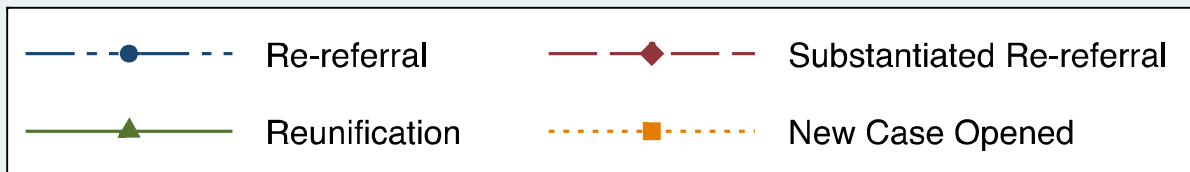
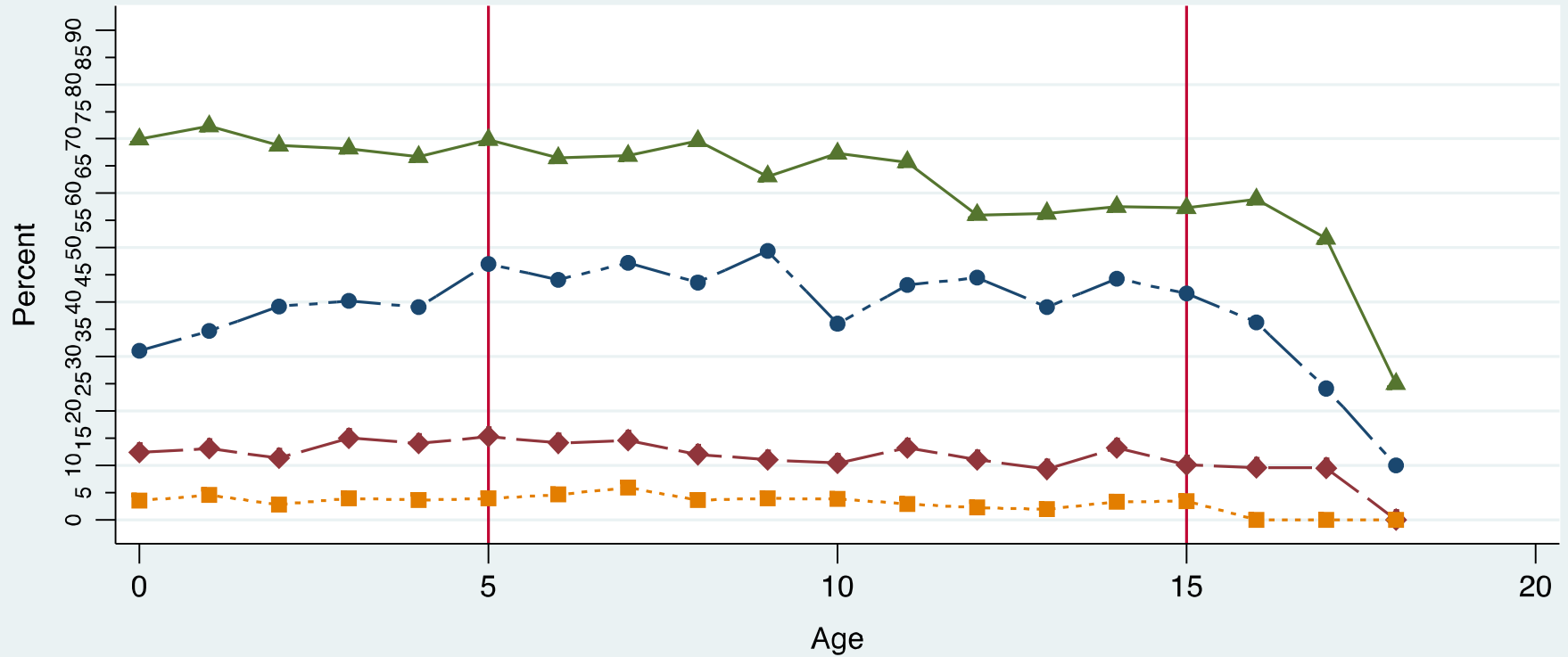


FY 2006-2010

N Across 5 Fiscal Years - 537

# Court Ordered Family Reunification

By Age



FY 2006-2010

N Across 5 Fiscal Years - 4,433

# What Factors Predict FPS Outcomes?

## Voluntary Family Maintenance

No further DCFS involvement	56.88
Re-referral	20.44
Substantiated Re-referral	7.26
Removal	15.42

		Relative Risk
Re-referral		
High/Very High Risk	More Likely	1.66
Hispanic	Less Likely	0.70
Other	Less Likely	0.35
Household Size	More Likely	1.14
Substantiated Re-referral		
High/Very High Risk	More Likely	1.57
Male	Less Likely	0.81
Hispanic	Less Likely	0.59
Black	Less Likely	0.68
Other	Less Likely	0.44
Household Size	More Likely	1.21
Removal		
High/Very High Risk	More Likely	2.05
Black	More Likely	1.45
Other	Less Likely	0.43
Child age	Less Likely	0.98
Household Size	More Likely	1.10
Parent age	Less Likely	0.98

Reference “No further involvement with DCFS

Low/Moderate Risk, Female, White

# What Factors Predict FPS Outcomes?

## Court Ordered Family Maintenance

No further DCFS involvement	60.3
Re-referral	19.57
Substantiated Re-referral	4.97
Removal	15.16

Re-referral		Relative Risk
Hispanic	Less Likely	0.70
Other	Less Likely	0.40
Household Size	More Likely	1.27
Months Receiving FPS	More Likely	1.07
Substantiated Re-referral		
Household Size	More Likely	1.28
Months Receiving FPS	More Likely	1.10
Removal		
High/Very High Risk	More Likely	1.49
Male	More Likely	1.20
Hispanic	Less Likely	0.82
Household Size	More Likely	1.18
Parent age	Less Likely	0.99
Months Receiving FPS	Less Likely	0.90

Reference “No further involvement with DCFS

Low/Moderate Risk, Female, White

## DCFS Worker Perceptions of FPS Contractors

Domain	SCSW <sup>?</sup> n=189 <sup>?</sup>		CSW <sup>?</sup> n=811 <sup>?</sup>	
	Mean <sup>?</sup>	SD <sup>?</sup>	Mean <sup>?</sup>	SD <sup>?</sup>
Client <sup>?</sup> Engagement <sup>?</sup> and <sup>?</sup> Service <sup>?</sup> Delivery <sup>?</sup>				
Interaction <sup>?</sup> with <sup>?</sup> families <sup>?</sup>	3.16 <sup>?</sup>	0.43 <sup>?</sup>	3.27 <sup>?</sup>	0.63 <sup>?</sup>
Communication <sup>?</sup> and <sup>?</sup> quality <sup>?</sup> assurance <sup>?</sup>	3.08 <sup>?</sup>	0.48 <sup>?</sup>	3.15 <sup>?</sup>	0.65 <sup>?</sup>
Service <sup>?</sup> provision <sup>?</sup>	3.15 <sup>?</sup>	0.42 <sup>?</sup>	3.18 <sup>?</sup>	0.59 <sup>?</sup>
<b>Overall<sup>?</sup> satisfaction<sup>?</sup></b>	<b>3.02<sup>?</sup></b>	<b>0.46<sup>?</sup></b>	<b>3.14<sup>?</sup></b>	<b>0.65<sup>?</sup></b>

Survey 1-Strongly Disagree – 4 Strongly Agree

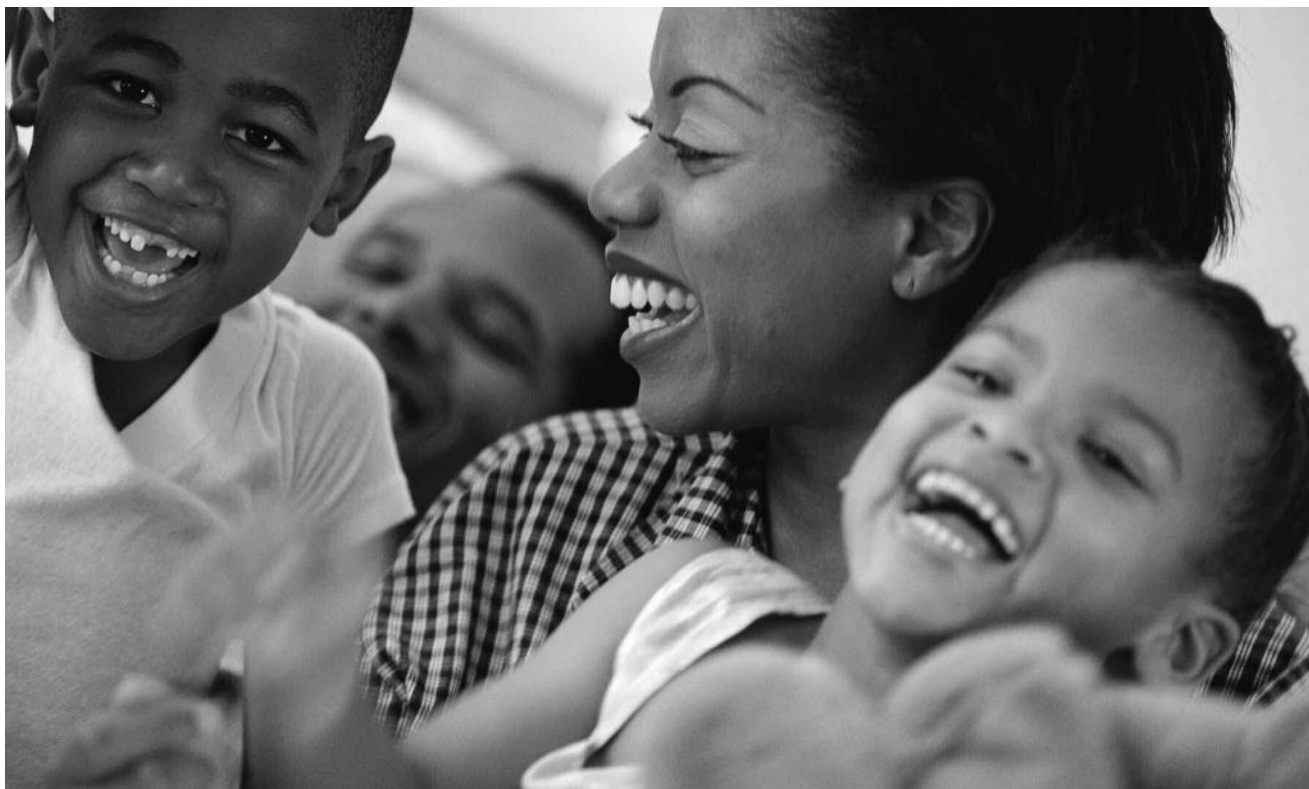
## Recommendations

- 1. Increase the consistency of the FPS referral process across regional offices. Also assure that intake criteria are applied in the same way by contracted agencies.**
- 2. Review and re-formulate the intervention strategies used as part of FPS.**
- 3. Require a core set of assessment measures and performance indicators across all FPS contract agencies.**

## Recommendations (Continued)

4. Form a FPS Learning Network.
5. Incentivize FPS contractor program quality and fidelity.
6. Refine service cost measurement.
7. Institute better tracking of family movement between FPS program components, define desired processes for transition, and provide post-permanency services.

## Questions and Discussion





## FPS Contact Information

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